

[Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi]

[20th August 1925]

the next few days, but I do submit that this will also be borne in mind that it does not conduce to the satisfactory transaction of non-official business if non-official days are put at the end of the sitting."

The hon. the PRESIDENT: "I am in the hands of the House. I wish to know exactly what the House wants to do. They have got two non-official days given to them by His Excellency. They can take them up now or they may take them hereafter."

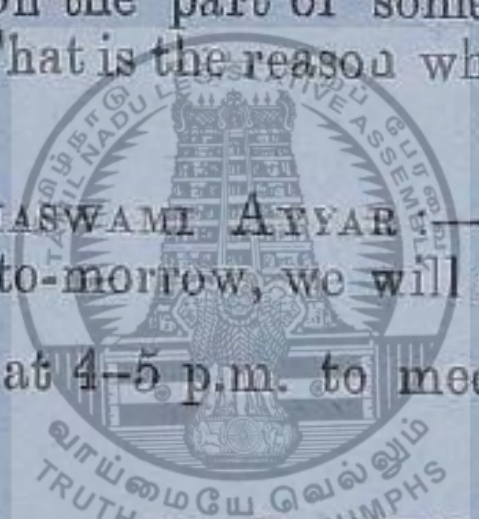
Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"To-morrow being an official day, they can try and finish the official work, and have Monday and Tuesday as non-official days."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"It has been agreed that the Council will not sit on Saturday. The question is, supposing official business is finished to-morrow, whether the Council will sit on Monday and Tuesday and do non-official business or take two days in addition to the two days which His Excellency may normally allot for the next meeting."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"There are some non-official Bills and there is anxiety on the part of some Members to have these non-official Bills disposed of. That is the reason why they want to sit on Monday and Tuesday."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I take it then that if we finish Government business to-morrow, we will sit on Monday and Tuesday."

The Council adjourned at 4-5 p.m. to meet again at 11 o'clock the next day.



R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,

*Secretary to the Legislative Council.*



20th August 1925]

programme sanctioned and are pulling down a certain number of old lines each year and rebuilding them on a better plan. The good lines are indeed almost too good for the coolie in the present state of enlightenment upon matters of health. He does not like ventilation and light and I found in some cases the verandah of the lines boarded up and used as pig styes or fowl yards and the window or ventilators blocked up with rags. The managers are doing their best to stop all this but their efforts are not popular. In some cases the lines had been made very filthy in these ways but it was the fault of the coolies themselves, not of the lines provided for them.

Each room is furnished, in most cases, with four wooden bunks raised 3 or 4 feet off the ground. The practice is to give each family a separate room so that when the family is large there may be more than four, but the managers try in other cases to keep the members to four per room.

In addition to pay, the estates give the coolies good Tanjore rice at concession rates. The difference between the cost of the rice and the amount charged for it to the coolies has amounted to eight lakhs in the last four years. Sick coolies really unable to work are sent to one of the many hospitals where they are fed and looked after free.

*Conservancy.*—This, I fully agree, is bad. But the fault lies with the coolies chiefly. They cannot be got to use the latrines provided, whether pit or otherwise. They prefer, especially in wet weather, to use the ground, covered with tea bushes, immediately surrounding the lines. I confess the problem seems to me insoluble until the coolie class have learned more sanitary habits. The danger of course is that the soil becomes infected with hookworm and also that the water-supply, usually from a stream running down the hill side close to the lines, becomes infected. The Director of Public Health has suggested to the planters a trench system with a movable corrugated iron structure. This seems the best arrangement possible but I doubt whether the coolies will be got to use it.

10. *Medical relief.*—All except the smallest estates have a hospital or dispensary, the latter in charge of a compounder. Patients are first treated at these dispensaries or small hospitals and then if necessary sent on to the larger group hospitals of which there are five, at Valaparai, Mudies, Kallionapandal, Karakundru and Panimade, each built at a cost of Rs. 30,000 or more in charge of a fully qualified medical man, the whole medical system being in charge of the European Chief Medical Officer. The annual expenditure on medical treatment apart from cost of buildings comes to Rs. 1,05,000 or nearly Rs. 5 per head of the coolie population. The planters are doing considerably more for the coolies in this respect than the Local Fund administration is in their own districts.